

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

October 23, 2012 to November 13, 2012

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement a proposed rule to establish quotas and opening dates for the 2013 Atlantic shark commercial fishing season. Quotas would be adjusted as allowable based on any over- and/or under-harvests experienced during the 2011 and 2012 Atlantic commercial shark fishing seasons. NMFS proposes to keep the porbeagle shark fishery closed in 2013 due to the small quota and difficulties in accurately monitoring such a small quota. In addition, NMFS proposes season openings based on previously implemented adaptive management measures to provide, to the extent practicable, fishing opportunities for commercial shark fishermen in all regions and areas. The proposed measures could affect fishing opportunities for commercial shark fishermen in the northwestern Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed rule consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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